New Haven 3 May 1824

Sir

I this day forwrd Vouchers for the delivery of 505 Muskets. As this completes the deliveries on the old contract, I have delayed sending on the vouchers with a hope that I should have been able to have made out a full statement of the Acct. for Boxes &c. &c. but the infirm state of my health has been such that it has not been in my Power to accomplish it.

You will recollect that, at the time of making the agreement, the reason why no more than twelve dollars each was allowed on the last thousand muskets, which I have delivered, was that Mr. Wickham had then recently contracted to deliver muskets at that price, conditioned, however, that he should receive more provided a greater price should thereafter be allowed to others. If an additional allowance has been or should hereafter be made to him, it appear to me but just & fair that an equal allowance should be made to me on the last thousand which I have delivered. —

By

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MSS
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SCRIBNER

By the terms of my orignal contract made with the Secretary of War, for 15,000 muskets. the Barrels were to be made forty inches long — which at the time was considerd by the Secretary of War as the most proper length for the barrel. At that time the Ordnance Department did not excist —

Afterwards, when the Ordnance Dep^t. was organized great consideration & considerable expence was bestowed on the subject of fixing upon a Standard Model for the Ustates musket — & it was finally decided that the length of the Barrel should be 42 inches — In compliance with the wishes of the Ordnance Department I proposed to make the barrels 42 instead of 40 inches long, as stipulated in the contract; provided a fair allowance should be made to me for the extra expence of making them two inches longer — to this proposition the Ordnance Dep^t. readily acceded. The amount to be allowed on this account has never been fixed upon.

I shall be desirous of closing the accts. relative to the old contract as soon as the state of my health will enable me to attend to it.

Respectfully, I am,
Your Ob^t. Serv^t.
Eli Whitney

Col. Geo. Bomford
Ordnc Dep^t.

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